

*House Armed Serv
File*

20 Dec. 58

Honorable Carl Vinson, Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Vinson:

Having in mind the convening of the 86th Congress in the near future, I would like to bring to your attention several thoughts concerning Agency appearances before the CIA Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. As in the past, I shall continue to make myself available to respond to the wishes of the Chairman and the Subcommittee members.

Very early in the coming session, possibly in January, I would like to appear before the Subcommittee to present a briefing which will deal in considerable detail with the Agency's activities, operations, and some of its accomplishments. It is expected that this briefing would last no more than two hours. I suggest that we be permitted to conduct this briefing reserving questions until its completion, at which time I and other members of my staff would be glad to respond to questions.

At the end of this presentation or at another meeting, I would be glad to furnish an intelligence briefing concerning recent events and a general status report. However, it is my belief that a briefing on the Agency itself is highly desirable to enable the Subcommittee members more effectively to judge the progress of the Agency. The scope and content of such a briefing have been

discussed with Mr. Robert W. Smart, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee Staff. In the meantime, if there is any way the Agency can be of assistance to the Subcommittee, please let us know.

Sincerely,

(s)
Allen W. Dulles
Director

OGC/LC:JSW:mks:jeb:mks (19 December 1958)

cc: DCI
DDCI
ER
Legislative Counsel

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File

19 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

**SUBJECT: Actions to be Taken with Representative
Carl Vinson**

1. This memorandum suggests action on the part of the Director of Central Intelligence. Such requested action is contained in paragraphs 2 and 3.

2. Attached is a proposed letter for your signature to Representative Vinson. The letter requests the opportunity for the Agency to present a briefing on its activities and operations early in the coming session. Also attached is a Memorandum for the Record of my conversation with Mr. Robert W. Smart, Chief Counsel of the House Armed Services Committee staff in which the subject of this briefing was discussed in some detail. The fact of this discussion is noted in the proposed letter. In addition, the memorandum records the discussions relating to officially noting the establishment of the Subcommittee and the fact of its meetings.

3. I have also attached for your use a list of the matters which you may wish to discuss with Mr. Vinson when you meet with him. Mr. Vinson is currently in town and will remain here until Congress convenes with the possible exception of the Christmas holidays. I suggest that if possible it would be desirable to see him prior to the Christmas holidays.

Atts. 3

Distribution:

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JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

OGC/LC:JSW:mks

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18 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Discussion with Robert Smart, House Armed Services
Committee Staff**

1. Legislative Counsel discussed with Mr. Robert Smart, House Armed Services Committee staff, all of the points included in the attached listing of suggested matters for the discussion by the DCI with Mr. Vinson which list has been furnished to the DCI as an aid. In general Mr. Smart seemed to be somewhat reluctant in the areas of establishing formally the Subcommittee and in recording officially the fact of meetings and any subsequent reports.

2. As to the question of a substantive briefing on Agency activities, he thought the Director in his discussions with Mr. Vinson should make it very clear as to what the difference would be between this type of briefing and previous briefings by the Agency so as to avoid any possibility that the Chairman or other members might feel that since we are asking for the opportunity of this type of briefing, what have we held back in the past.

3. Mr. Smart did not give any suggestions on the periodic briefing question. However, he did suggest that the Agency might wish to consider an occasional intelligence briefing where the Agency foresaw the possibility of some coming event. He readily recognized the possible difficulties in this type of thing but merely offered it as a suggestion.

4. I also mentioned to Mr. Smart that the DCI was planning to forward a letter to Mr. Vinson requesting the opportunity of briefing the Subcommittee on Agency activities. Mr. Smart suggested that a time in January would be most appropriate before the Committee became involved in other matters.

Att.

cc: DCI
DDCI

JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

Items to be Discussed with Representative Carl Vinson

For assistance in your discussion with Mr. Vinson, I have attempted to list in summary form the various points which should be discussed. These are not necessarily listed in the order of priority.

1. The request by Mr. Cannon that the Appropriations Subcommittee be briefed on a continuing basis. You will recall that Mr. Cannon's request has not been answered and various methods have been considered. It was generally agreed that it would probably be undesirable to circulate the weekly bulletin or other types of intelligence reports. However, it was suggested that you could make an initial presentation at the early part of the session concerning world affairs and offer to provide periodic briefings at the pleasure of the Subcommittee. It was also suggested that Mr. Cannon designate someone on the staff who could be briefed periodically as the Agency saw fit or as otherwise determined to be appropriate.

2. Discussions with other House leaders. You will also wish to discuss with Mr. Vinson the desirability of a joint meeting to include Mr. Vinson, Mr. Rayburn, Mr. Cannon and Mr. Morgan to discuss the forthcoming session and the requests of the various committees for briefings. You may also wish to raise the possibility of measures being introduced in the House for a "Watch Dog" Committee.

3. The matter of a substantive briefing of the House CIA Subcommittee of Armed Services. It is believed appropriate that you might mention to Mr. Vinson that you are desirous of briefing the Subcommittee on Agency operations, activities and accomplishments and that in this connection we would propose that the Subcommittee allow us sufficient time shortly after the beginning of Congress to put on our prepared presentation on this subject. Somewhat related to the above is the question of what actions should be taken by the Armed Services Subcommittee. The first point would be the question of a formal announcement of the appointment of the CIA Subcommittee. Secondly, I believe it appropriate to ask Mr. Vinson to consider the question of a brief report by the Subcommittee of the fact of briefings by CIA to the full Committee. Thirdly, you may wish to raise the question with Mr. Vinson of the desirability of an appropriate and secure report by the House Armed Services to the whole of the House.

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